



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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SECRETARY

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Environmental Compliance Solutions, LLC, and former Iberia Parish Sheriff Sentenced in Clean Water Act Violation

BATON ROUGE - Yesterday, Sidney J. Hebert, former Iberia Parish Sheriff, and owner of Environmental Compliance Solutions, LLC (ECS) appeared before United States Magistrate Michael Hill for sentencing in connection with pleading guilty to federal environmental crimes on September 22, 2010. Hebert was sentenced to 3 years of supervised probation, 120 hours of community service, and a \$1,800 criminal fine. Hebert's company, ECS, was sentenced to pay a \$50,000 criminal fine.

ECS was formed for the purpose of wastewater treatment and discharge pursuant to a permit issued by the State of Louisiana. The permit allowed ECS to operate as a centralized waste treatment facility.

On September 22, 2010, Hebert, who was the on-site manager at ECS, pled guilty to charges and admitted that he was negligent in the operation procedures at ECS. An inspection of ECS on June 2, 2009, by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, revealed that wastewaters were bypassing the filtration system and ultimately being discharged into the Commercial Canal located in the Port of Iberia. Hebert, who was also part owner, president and the responsible corporate officer of ECS, failed to maintain the required documentation, prepare reports, implement plans and perform proper testing as mandated by the permit.

"The department takes environmental crimes seriously," said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. "It's unfortunate that there are people who try to bypass environmental regulations. DEQ will continue to work closely with its federal, state and local partners to create an atmosphere where people better understand why it's important for everyone to abide by environmental laws."

"Instead of properly treating commercial waste oil and wastewater as it was licensed to do, ECS bypassed the treatment system and diluted wastewater with well water," said Ivan Vikin, Special Agent-in-Charge for EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement for the Louisiana region. "The defendants' illegal actions threatened human health and endangered fish and wildlife habitat by polluting the environment. This case, which was worked jointly with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Criminal Investigation Division and the Louisiana State Police, illustrates that companies and their senior executives will be held responsible for environmental crimes."

This case was investigated jointly by the Criminal Investigation Divisions of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Myers P. Namie.

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is to protect the environment and public health. Any persons with knowledge of any spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents should contact the department at 225-219-3640, or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424.